

Senior League Executive meeting

Quarterbridge Hotel

Thursday 8th September 18:30

Present: Andy Coulson(IOMCA), Peter Luft(IOMCA), Malcolm Guild(Umpires), Gillian Craine (PSJ), Gareth Rowlands(Crosby), Garreth Roome(Castletown), Rob Weight(Valkyres), Carl Mellors (Cronkbourne), Jaco Jansen (Cronkbourne), Rob Webber (Ramsey), Nick Platten (Finch Hill)

Apologies: Greg Wenn(Union Mills), Simon Beard(Schools)

1. Registration

Everybody was in agreement that the Open registration had worked well for clubs but that there should be amendments to eligibility for the Blincoe in particular. It was agreed to put forward the suggestion that no player who has played for the Island squad within the previous 2 seasons (unless Under 18) will be eligible to play in the Blincoe Cup.

It was also agreed to suggest that players who have played for clubs in one Cup tie should then remain cup-tied for the remainder of that season's competition.

Discussion about the Schools XI took place. It was felt that the first season had been successful and thanks went to Simon for his hard work. There seemed to have been miscommunication between the clubs and Simon re the supply of players for the team as some clubs expected requests for players whereas Simon hoped for players to be offered.

It was agreed that work needs to be done to improve the structure of the team in order to improve the player's development. Discussion took place regarding the purpose behind the Schools XI? Is it to provide future players for the National squad or to strengthen overtime the level of senior cricket on the Island?

The team is worthy of perseverance. Carl stated his willingness to help.

Suggestions for improvement included:

- Players should be young players who are not regularly playing for the first team
- Clubs should nominate young players at the start of the season who they feel could benefit from being part of the squad for the Schools team manager to pull from.

- There should be an older pot of young players and a younger pot of players as well as the Oldies to provide balance and competitiveness.

2. Competitions

It was reported that Clubs are keen to extend the season and play in to August. A suggestion was made to play each other x3 times at the weekend.

There was a suggestion that the Tinker Cup should become a weekend festival of 20/20 cricket with teams playing a round robin format.

Delegates felt that the midweek leagues had not worked as well as they could have. Teams had not played each other but other teams had played each other up to 4 times.

The Forrester League had had wide variances between certain teams.

Rob Webber suggested following the hockey format where teams eg 8 play each other once and then the league splits. Top 4 play each other again and the bottom 4 play each other. This format to apply for the Cain in particular.

Clubs were keen to reinstate the Forrester 1 and 2 leagues in order that younger players who would historically gone into the C team get a fair go at bowling or batting.

Clubs would like to reconsider rearrangement of Forrester games on a Monday and Cain to a Wednesday. It allows for players who have played at the weekend to avoid excommunication by other family members if they play Monday. There was also anecdotal evidence of reduced participation by senior players who refrained from playing because the games were no longer played on a Monday.

There was agreement that the start time for midweek games should be 6:30pm or for players to be ready at 6:15 for a 6:30 start. 6pm is considered too early for players and umpires.

It was agreed to start the weekend games should start at 11:30am or 12 noon if umpires etc are not available until 12 due to work commitments.

3. Match balls.

All clubs agreed that they are happy with the existing Reader balls although Gareth Rowlands remarked that at times, they have not floated so well at Crosby.

4. Pitch standards

Clubs were agreed that the standard of pitches was not great. Rob Webber remarked that most clubs do not have the rollers to maintain the matt wickets. All the club delegates felt that it would be reasonable to provide funding by the clubs for the renewal/ maintenance of pitches every 2/3 years if the costs were affordable. Further information was requested.

It was also remarked that the length of the grass on the Department of Education grounds was too long generally.

5. Scoring

Everybody was happy with the scoring apps and website

6. Umpires

All the delegates were happy with the Umpiring throughout the season. Malcolm commented that there will be a diminishing pool of umpires due to retirement etc.

It was felt that a less strict adherence to the rules could be applied at times. Flexibility with the time period that Tea is taken is one example.

If there is a situation whereby the captains agree eg persistent rain and common sense could come into play, then the umpire should accept the decision of the 2 captains.

Malcolm G stipulated that it is important to be fair to both sides and to take in to account any 'dangerous' situation. He also felt that the umpire must avoid a situation where the captains can manipulate matters where League points are involved. He agreed to take the comments back to the Umpires Association.

7. Other Cricket

It was reported that Ramsey undertook their annual 6-a side competition and Valkyres played a 50th Anniversary game against a Valkyres Veterans XI

8. Awards

A suggestion was made that the award winners could be invited to a drinks event at the end of the season eg to take place after the Tinker Final. Photos taken - short and sharp. The Isle of Man Football Association do something similar at present.

It was agreed that the clubs would recover the awards given but in the first instance Andy(AC) will contact Maurice to see if he has the list of the last award winners and then contact them to return the trophies to the Association.

9. Delegates were comfortable with no annual dinner taking place this year.

10. AOB

Nick Platten stated that Finch Hill would be interested in a Blincoe type competition in order to extend the season for their junior players. There was no enthusiasm by delegates for another competition, but it was suggested that the club plays some friendlies at the end of the season.

Nets

We advised that Greig is trying to set up nets time at the NSC but is having problems with the booking methods used at present by the management team at the NSC. Greig is due to meet Wayne from the NSC in the near future.

Pete Luft advised that the New nets at KWC should soon arrive and access to them will be available to all clubs.

Finally, it was agreed that the Senior League Executive should meet again in February 2017.